

**AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS**

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 30 and 37 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 8, 15, 17, 22, and 35 are currently amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a downstream proxy server configured to communicate with a client that is configured to transmit a message requesting content specifying an object from a content server, wherein the message includes a cookie associated with the client; and

an upstream proxy server configured to include the cookie in a read-ahead request if the cookie is supported by the content server, to retrieve the object, based on the cookie, from the content server and to forward the object based on a predetermined criteria relating to the object, including ~~life~~ time-to-live of the object and the object not being marked as uncacheable, over a data network to the downstream proxy server prior to the client transmitting another message requesting the object.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the downstream proxy server and the upstream proxy server communicate over a communications link that includes at least one of plurality of Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connections to support parallel Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) transactions, and a multiplexed connection of HTTP transactions.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the data network includes at least one of a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite network, and a terrestrial wide area network (WAN).

5. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

other downstream proxy servers in communication with the upstream proxy server, the upstream proxy server multicasting the object to the downstream proxy servers over the data network.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the content conforms with a markup language that includes Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing content to a client, the method comprising:  
receiving a message, forwarded by a downstream server, from the client;  
determining whether the message includes a cookie associated with the client;  
including the cookie in a read-ahead request if the cookie is supported by a content server;  
retrieving the content specifying an object based on the read-ahead request and the cookie; and  
forwarding the object over a communications link to the downstream server based on a predetermined criteria relating to the object, wherein the predetermined criteria includes ~~life~~ time-to-live of the object and the object not being marked as uncacheable, prior to the client transmitting a message requesting the object.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the communications link in the transmitting step includes at least one of plurality of Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connections to support parallel Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) transactions, and a multiplexed connection of HTTP transactions.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the communications link in the transmitting step is established over a data network that includes at least one of a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite network, and a terrestrial wide area network (WAN).

12. (Original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising:  
retrieving the object; and

multicasting the object to the downstream server.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the content conforms with a markup language that includes Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

15. (Currently Amended) A network device comprising:

means for receiving a message, forwarded by a downstream server, from the client;

means for determining whether the message includes a cookie associated with the client;

means for including the cookie in a read-ahead request if the cookie is supported by a content server;

means for retrieving content specifying an object from a content server based on the read-ahead request and the cookie; and

means for forwarding the object over a communications link to the downstream server based on a predetermined criteria relating to the object, including ~~the~~ time-to-live of the object and the object not being marked as uncacheable, prior to the client transmitting a message requesting the object.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A network device according to claim 15, wherein the communications link includes at least one of plurality of Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connections to support parallel Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) transactions, and a multiplexed connection of HTTP transactions.

18. (Previously Presented) A network device according to claim 15, wherein the communications link is established over a data network that includes at least one of a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite network, and a terrestrial wide area network (WAN).

19. (Original) A network device according to claim 15, wherein the object is retrieved and multicast to the downstream server.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A network device according to claim 15, wherein the content conforms with a markup language that includes Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for providing content to a client, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving a message, forwarded by a downstream server, from the client;

determining whether the message includes a cookie associated with the client;

including the cookie in a read-ahead request if the cookie is supported by a content server;

retrieving the content specifying an object based on the read-ahead request based on the cookie;

and

forwarding the object over a communications link to the downstream server based on a predetermined criteria relating to the object, wherein the predetermined criteria includes ~~the~~ time-to-live of the object and the object not being marked as uncacheable, prior to the client transmitting a message requesting the object.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the communications link in the transmitting step includes at least one of plurality of Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connections to support parallel Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) transactions, and a multiplexed connection of HTTP transactions.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the communications link in the transmitting step is established over a data network that includes at least one of a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite network, and a terrestrial wide area network (WAN).

26. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

retrieving the object; and

multicasting the object to the downstream server.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the content conforms with a markup language that includes Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, further comprising:  
forwarding a list specifying expected objects corresponding to the content, wherein the downstream server blocks requests from the client for objects on the list.

30. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 8, further comprising:  
determining whether the object is cacheable, wherein the object is forwarded if the object is cacheable.~~

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the downstream server explicitly tracks objects stored in a local cache, the downstream server forwarding the message only if the object associated with the requested content is not stored in the local cache.

32. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 15, further comprising:  
means for forwarding a list specifying expected objects corresponding to the content, wherein the downstream server blocks requests from the client for objects on the list.

33. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 15, further comprising:  
means for determining whether the object is cacheable, wherein the object is forwarded if the object is cacheable.

34. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 15, wherein the downstream server explicitly tracks objects stored in a local cache, the downstream server forwarding the message only if the object associated with the requested content is not stored in the local cache.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of providing content to a client, the method comprising:  
receiving a message from a client requesting content specifying an object from a content server, wherein the message includes a cookie;  
transmitting the message to an upstream server configured to include the cookie in a request if the cookie is supported by the content server to retrieve the object based on the cookie from the content server and to determine whether the object is cacheable; and  
receiving, from the upstream server, the object over a data network prior to the client transmitting another message requesting the object if the object is not marked as uncachable.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35, further comprising:  
receiving a list specifying expected objects corresponding to the content; and  
blocking requests from the client for objects on the list from being transmitted to the upstream server.

37. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 35, further comprising:  
determining whether the object is cacheable, wherein the object is forwarded by the upstream server if the object is cacheable.~~

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35, further comprising:

explicitly tracking objects stored in a local cache; and  
forwarding the message, by the upstream server, only if the object associated with the requested content is not stored in the local cache.

39. (Canceled)